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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin 1980-1989

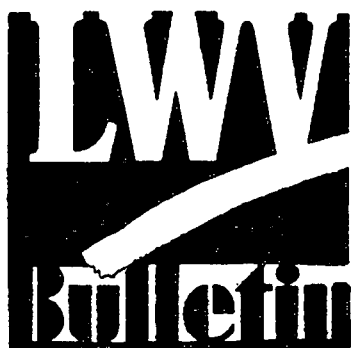
League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin

1-1989

LWV Bulletin, January, 1989

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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Huntington Area LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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JANUARY 1989



At a special meeting of the Board of Education, December 15, 1988, Mary Robson made this statement of the League's position:

~~The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area is pleased that the Cabell County School System is beginning to look to the future in planning for its education.~~

~~Although we have no position on consolidation per se, we do have some positions that relate to consolidation. We hope that consolidation will achieve the following goals:~~

1. Upgrading of schools, including higher safety standards.
2. Availability of libraries in all schools.
3. Emphasis on basic skills in all schools, including communication skills.
4. Enrichment programs in all schools which should include, at a minimum, computer literacy, music, art, and physical education.
5. An equitable distribution of funds.
6. Adequate remedial programs so that learning disabilities can be diagnosed and addressed at an early age.
7. A better geographical distribution of special education.

~~There are evidences that savings may occur with consolidation. We hope that part of these savings could be used to provide basic materials and equipment to all the schools, rather than depending on teachers and PTAs to provide these services.~~

Finally, we urge the Cabell County Board of Education to look to the future. Consolidation will only meet immediate needs. Of Cabell's 43 schools, 16 were built before 1930; 12 more before 1940; and 8 more before 1960 for a total of 36 schools that are old or aging. To prepare our children for the Twenty-first Century, they need modern schools designed to deal with the technology of the time.

CONSENSUS UPDATE

--Agriculture. In September 1988 the LWVEF was awarded funding from the Kellogg Foundation for a three-year project on agriculture issues. The project will be conducted jointly with Public Voice for Food and Health Policy and will focus on a broad policy issue each year, as follows:

Year 1: Pesticide residues in food and water--toward a sustainable system;

Year 2: The structure of agriculture--consequences for consumers and rural communities;

Year 3: Toward a safer, healthier food supply.

The LWVEF is looking for additional funds for the third year.

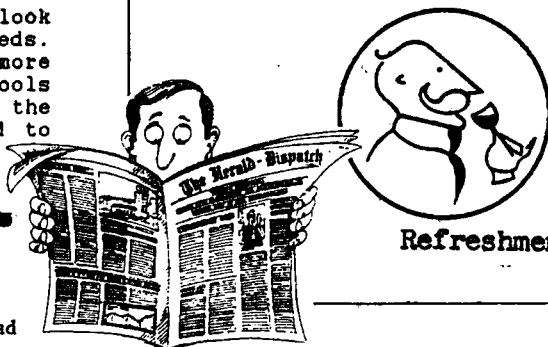
LEAGUE MEMBERS IN THE NEWS...LEAGUE MEMBERS IN THE NEWS...

Would you rather hear
your legislators' views
... or tell them yours?

You can do either - or both - at
our annual Pre-Session Session,
Monday, January 30,
7 PM,
at Betsy and Henry Broh's,
721 13th Avenue.

All the state legislators from
Cabell and Wayne Counties have
been invited. Topics will be
top priority issues on their
agenda, and ours.

This is traditionally a spirited
and festive occasion, where
members, guests - and differing
opinions - are all welcome.



Refreshments, too.

• SIDNEY EINSTEIN, newly appointed
member of City Council ...

• BETTY BARRETT, City Council's
new Chairperson ...

• CHUCK POLAN, new WV Commissioner
of Finance and Administration.



SOME PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WORK

Much has been written about West Virginia children born in poverty, about their lack of health care, and about their handicaps toward success in education. The statistics are frustrating.

However, some programs work, and West Virginia should take full advantage of them.

1. The WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program funded through the United States Department of Agriculture, provides nutrition, education, and food for pregnant women and children under five years of age. For every \$1.00 invested in WIC, there is a \$3.00 savings in costs associated with premature and low birthweight babies. Yet only 30,000 out of 40,000 women and children in West Virginia receive the benefit.

2. For every \$1.00 spent on prenatal care, \$6.00 can be saved in costs for neonatal care. More dollars spent on prenatal care could have saved the lives of 166 infants in 1986. 237 infants died in their first year of life. The white infant mortality rate of 10.4 was higher than 41 other states in 1985. 70% of the deaths were low birthweight babies.

3. For every \$1.00 spent on quality preschool education, \$4.75 is returned because of lower costs in special education, public assistance, and crime. Yet more than 12,420 eligible low-income children in West Virginia were denied the opportunity for Head Start because of inadequate funding.

4. ~~Licensed day care for children under 2 1/2 months of age is unavailable in 40 of the 55 counties in West Virginia. 52% of mothers who are employed have children under 6 years of age. 40% of mothers in the work force have children between 6 and 17 years. Child care averages \$2,392 a year for one child, which is one-third of the minimum wage income of \$6,968. Public investment in child care is cost-effective in comparison to the larger costs of job absenteeism, unemployment, and welfare dependency.~~

West Virginia must make all efforts to see that these programs are fully funded. It will not solve all the problems of our children in poverty, but it will be a good start. We cannot afford to do less.

ACTION

In December, Huntington League members were alerted to write letters to the WV Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asking it to "stick by" the strong regulations the DNR wrote to implement the 1988 Solid Waste Law. Efforts have been made to weaken the regulations.



In memory of Constance Tomkies
who died on December 2, 1988

Constance Tomkies was instrumental in founding the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area in the early 1940s. Mrs. Tomkies was the first woman elected to the Cabell County Board of Education and served as president for 2 years. She was also the first woman to serve on Huntington's City Council. In Nancy Whear's book History Making Women of Huntington, 1871 to 1971, Mrs. Tomkies' philosophy was presented that "education is a lifelong pursuit and women have the duty and the capacity to serve in leadership roles and should pursue them."

League of Women Voters
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25705

Nonprofit Organization
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30 * January/Monday LWV Meeting
7 PM w/ legislators (bring guest!)
@ Broh's - 721 13th Ave.

31

Tuesday

OPINIONS

The Herald-Dispatch WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1988

Jenkins home's reprieve a victory for the Tri-State

The Tri-State Area got an early Christmas present when the state Department of Culture and History revealed its plans for transforming the historic Jenkins home into a major tourist attraction.

Located on the Ohio River just upstream from Huntington, the 150-year-old home — built by Confederate Gen. Albert Gallatin Jenkins — had been slated to become a combination office/residence for a game warden. What a tragic waste that would have been.

Now, thanks to welcome

intervention by Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., and state Commerce Commissioner Robert Trocin, the Department of Culture and History has agreed to try developing the home into a tourist site. Details still need to be worked out and the project's financing remains uncertain, but what's envisioned is a restored home, staffed with costumed guides.

Chalk up a well-deserved victory for those who refused to stand aside and let another piece of our heritage be trashed.

We've already started our Summer Fun flyer. Rose Marie Riter has lots of "fun" ideas, and needs lots of help. Call her now, 522-4459.

